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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHAW).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 1, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Imam Hassan Qazwini, Leader, The Islamic Center of America, Detroit, Michigan, offered the following prayer: Respected Congressmen and Women, I would like to greet you with the greeting of Islam. Peace be with you in the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Glory be to Allah, the Lord of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad. As we commence our legislative day in this 108th Congress, we ask You to bestow Your blessing upon us and help our legislators enact that which pleases You and ensures the interest of our people. Lend Your infinite wisdom to this Congress and allow them to embrace what is right, not what is popular.

As our Nation faces many challenges, we beseech Your guidance. And as we pursue those who intend harm to our country, let us seek justice rather than revenge. Guide our leaders to use the influence of their power as an instrument for the betterment of all humankind and peace throughout the world.

Oh, Allah, endow the people of this great land with a growing trust in one another and an increasing faith in You. Help us all uphold our God-given rights

of freedom and equality. Allow us never to evoke Your law by embracing color or creed as tools for superiority. As You say in the Holy Koran, "Oh people, We had created you from one male and one female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Verily, the best amongst you are those who are the most pious." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CONYERS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1925. An act to reauthorize programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 1261. An act to reauthorize the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 1680. An act to reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING IMAM HASSAN AL-QAZWINI

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend the greetings of the House of Representatives to my constituent and friend, the Imam Hassan Al-Qazwini of the Islamic Center of America of Dearborn, Michigan, as our guest chaplain.

Imam Qazwini's life is a testament to the greatness of our Nation and its devotion to freedom of religion, freedom of conscience, and universal liberty. His life story is remarkable and moving, and his dedication to his adoptive homeland should make us all proud.

Imam Qazwini was born to a prominent religious family in Karbala, Iraq, and became a student at the Islamic Seminary in Qum, Iran. His family in Iraq were Shiites, and actively opposed the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. For their courage they were persecuted. Fourteen of his relatives were either executed or imprisoned by the Ba'athists.

Imam Qazwini has become a leading voice for Muslims in America. He has spoken movingly of the need for reconciliation, for tolerance, and for the recognition of our shared humanity. He has worked with leaders in both the Christian and the Jewish communities to help bridge the differences between us and to dispel prejudice. His work has touched Muslim and non-Muslim alike, and his devotion to our State and our community of Dearborn has been recognized by the mayor, the governor, and by President Bush.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, Imam Qazwini's life is a statement on

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the greatness of our Nation. In only a few years, he has become a leader in our Nation's religious life, and he has met twice with President Bush.

I am proud that he is here today and was able to give this body a moving start to our day.

Imam, you have been most welcome here today and we are honored that you are with us.

SUPPORTING BAN ON PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, partial-birth abortion is a horrific and heinous procedure which attacks the very dignity of women at the most fundamental level. As a mother and as an ardent human rights activist, I have fought tirelessly to ensure that all are guaranteed the most basic of human rights, the right to life. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the fundamental international document on human rights, states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Some of my colleagues who support partial-birth abortion are the first ones to rightly advocate the prohibition of cruelty against others or even against helpless animals. But how can some cringe in horror when an animal is tortured, yet they do not think twice about the unspeakable suffering of an innocent baby being killed through this so-called medical procedure?

I urge my colleagues to finally pass the bill outlawing this act and send it to the President for his signature.

WELCOMING IMAM HASSAN QAZWINI

(Mr. CONYERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONYERS. To my colleagues this morning, I am very delighted to entertain Imam Hassan Qazwini and seven other members from the Muslim community in Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan. He and I are very good friends and I am honored that the Islamic Center of America is located in my congressional district. I am also proud of the fact that they are building what might likely be the largest religious center for Muslims in the United States, which will be in Dearborn, Michigan, which my colleague and the dean of the House, Mr. DINGELL, and I both represent.

The important point I would leave with you in extending my welcome is that Imam Qazwini has worked tirelessly with those of us Christians, Muslims and Jews to continue a dialogue that has taken place more than a dozen times in Detroit and in the District of Columbia with the help of my former staffer, Ms. Alexia Smokler, and my

current general counsel of the Committee on the Judiciary, Burt Wides. We have worked together with Congressman DINGELL to continue the discussion that is so necessary for us to come together, understand each other's cultures and also be amazed at the similarities of concerns that we raise.

It is in that spirit that I too join in the welcome to the House of Representatives on this day to Imam Qazwini.

GOOD FISCAL NEWS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, good news on the fiscal front from Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Secretary of Revenue Greg Fajt said this week that State revenues for September were up 6.4 percent, higher than expected. In fact, every revenue source has reported an increase for the fiscal year. Sales tax, corporate income tax, personal income tax and even the realty transfer tax and the inheritance tax have produced unexpected dollars for the State treasury. For the entire year, the cash has come in at 2.9 percent or \$134.9 million over the estimate.

In addition, the Small Business Survival Committee has ranked Pennsylvania's tax code 17th in the Nation for its friendliness to small business. That ranking was based on being last in corporate income taxes, 10th in personal income, 21st in property taxes and 2nd lowest in bureaucrats per 100 residents.

I hope what is happening in Pennsylvania is symptomatic of what is happening in other States in our country as we seek to make Pennsylvania and America a better place to provide jobs and raise our families.

TIME FOR U.S. TO GET OUT OF IRAQ

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. It is time for the United States to get out of Iraq. It is time to get the U.N. in and the U.S. out, to bring our troops home and to end this sorry exercise in preemption and unilateralism.

America can ill afford to spend \$87 billion on top of \$179 billion in support of a war which has no end, no exit, no logic and no sense. It is time to come up with a plan to get the U.N. in and the U.S. out. We must work with the world community on this.

Today the administration will tell Congress that it was deceived by Saddam Hussein into thinking that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Let this Congress not be deceived by an administration that took this Nation into a war we did not have to fight. Bring our troops home.

Vote against the \$87 billion; U.N. in and U.S. out of Iraq.

SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S WAR ON TERRORISM SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of President George W. Bush's supplemental request of \$87 billion for the war on terror. This will support our troops who were historically successful in combat and helped develop Iraq so that we can win the peace.

After World War II, America led the effort in the Marshall Plan to rebuild Germany. We prevented Germany from becoming a breeding ground for Communists and we defeated communism. Today we can redevelop Iraq and prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for terrorists and we will defeat terrorism. This funding is mutually beneficial for the people of America and Iraq.

We cannot abandon the newly freed people of Iraq and allow the terrorists to regain strength. We can either fight the terrorists overseas or on the streets of America.

I believe that every dollar of this supplemental is a weapon which will help save American lives. I encourage Members to stand firm in our promise to win the fight in the war on terror.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the hundreds, if not thousands, of workers that will be converging on Washington, D.C. today as part of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. The Freedom Riders are construction workers, cooks, farmworkers, landscapers, nurses, janitors, and even nannies. They work hard and they pay taxes. Like the Freedom Riders of 1961, today's Freedom Riders are advocating an end to unfair policies and unjust treatment. These policies deny millions a clear road to citizenship and make them vulnerable to abuses in the workplace.

We should enact laws that reflect the reality of our economy's labor needs and that recognize the important contribution of immigrants. That is why I have introduced a resolution today supporting Freedom Ride and urging President Bush and the Congress to reform our broken immigration system.

Over 2 years ago, President Bush pledged his support for an earned adjustment program for undocumented immigrants but has yet to deliver. Millions of immigrants and their families continue to live in the shadows, wanting to participate fully in American society.